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SECRETARY
BALL

10 a.m. February 7, 1965

GWB called the Secretary to report that there had been weather problems so only a part of the operation actually got off the ground and had limited success over one target. One pilot was ejected two miles out at sea and they haven't found him. Something is being put out on this and also on the dependents. The VNav may try again in the morning - they had to abort and it is important that they participate. Tommy is talking to his friend this morning along the general lines that we worked out with the President. We will have to wait and see what reaction comes. It will come from the capital rather than where the fellow is. GWB thinks it is important to explain only our own view. The people who are entertaining him deliberately tried to trap him by making a strike to demonstrate we were a paper tiger. The Secretary asked about Reedy's statement. GWB gave him the general gist - strike announced and pointed out that this was against the staging area. It was at the end of the holidays. Secretary asked about the internal situation in Saigon. GWB said chaos, full of rumors and alarms, Khanh is as much a center of authority as exists. Bundy being brought back. Congressional people involved; even Mike says having made his views felt he will give all the support he can. GWB didn't think there would be anything of major importance happening today. The boss is anxious about the dependents. Out there they are still taking about phasing it over a month but GWB says the delay would set them up as targets. GWB said that Bob is giving a press conference on the operational details - watch the TV. Will report further if anything to report.

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